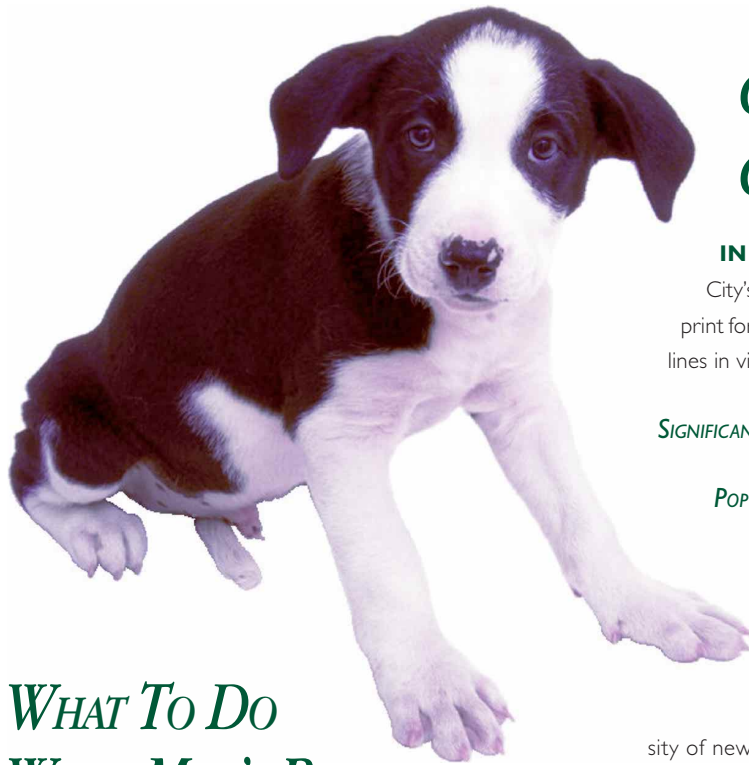


CITY *Visions*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • SEPTEMBER 2001



WHAT TO DO WHEN MAN'S BEST FRIEND....ISN'T

ACCORDING TO the Humane Society of the United States, there are approximately 4.7 million reported dog bites in the United States each year. It is estimated that this figure represents only half of the total number of dog bites, dog bites for the most part, go largely unreported. The reason for this is that the majority of people are bitten by the family dog, and they fail to report the bite. However, due to some potentially serious health risks, all animal bites that occur in Morgan Hill, should be immediately reported to the Morgan Hill Police Department.

SEE "DOG" PAGE 2

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

IN JULY, the City Council adopted a sweeping update of the City's General Plan. The New General Plan, a twenty-year blueprint for future community growth, sets standards, goals and guidelines in virtually all important areas.

SIGNIFICANT PLANNING AMENDMENTS

POPULATION AND HOUSING

The General Plan update assumes the current Measure P growth rate (up to 250 homes per year) will continue to the year 2020, resulting in a City population of 48,000. The Plan proposes that 65-70 percent of the new housing be single-family homes.

No major changes were made to the location or density of new housing.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Regional studies indicate significant new commercial and industrial growth will occur in the Morgan Hill area over the next 20 years. The updated General Plan designates 214 additional acres to accommodate this growth. This economic development will offer local job opportunities to residents now commuting as well as goods and services located closer to home. Additionally, this business growth is essential to create tax support for needed City services.

These studies also suggest that, in the next 20 years, City growth will support a subregional commercial center featuring items such as appliances, books, building materials, clothing, electronics, furniture and office supplies. Sites near the Cochrane Road and Tennant Avenue freeway interchanges have been reserved for such a center.


SEE "PLAN" PAGE 3

ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD REESTABLISHED

IN RECENT times, the City Council and the general public have expressed concerns regarding the proliferation of franchise architecture and the general design quality in some new development projects. As a result, the City Council directed City staff to reestablish an Architectural and Site Review Board (ARB). The previous ARB was disbanded in 1992 to save costs. The new ARB will provide greater scrutiny of the architectural design of new commercial, industrial and major residential projects to ensure they maintain the character of the community and the quality of design expected for our City.

The ARB is a technical board consisting of five individuals who have expertise in the areas of architecture, landscaping design, general contracting or other fields with similar design or building expertise. As a technical board, project applicants and their design team appear before their peers. This enables the Board to more effectively convey the City's design standard and building requirements to applicants. The Board will also assist City staff as the final arbitrator on decisions regarding the design requirements recommended by staff.

In addition to the Board's responsibility to review major development applications, the ARB will be working with City staff and a consultant to update the City's Design Review Ordinance and Architectural Handbook. The Board will also be working on an Urban Design and Gateway Plan for the major entry points to our community. The ARB meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meeting agendas are posted at City Hall

and on the City's web site at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov 

• Article by Jim Rowe, Planning Manager, 779-7247 or jrowe@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

How can you avoid being bitten by a dog? What should you do if you are bitten? Here are some safety tips from the Animal Control Services division of the Police Department.

BASIC SAFETY AROUND DOGS:


- * Never approach an unfamiliar dog. Approaching a strange dog puts you at a high risk of being bitten.
- * Always let a dog smell you prior to petting it. If a dog is allowed to "scent you" first, it is more likely not to be startled by you.
- * Talk to dogs in a soft high-pitched voice. Dogs recognize a "happy voice." A stern voice may be interpreted as growling.

IF APPROACHED BY A STRANGE DOG:

- * Avoid staring into the dog's eyes. Staring is a sign of dominance, and could provoke a bite.
- * Do not scream or turn and run. Screaming and running will just provoke the dog to chase you.
- * Try to remain calm. Panicking is a sure way to get hurt.
- * Slowly back away keeping your eyes on the dog.
- * Forcefully tell the dog "no, sit, or stay." Use commands that the dog may recognize, to stop an attacking dog.

IF BITTEN BY A STRANGE DOG:

- * Try to remain calm. Panic will not help the situation.
- * Slowly back away from the dog. Be sure to keep your eyes on the dog, without staring into its eyes.
- * Slowly retreat to a safe area. (behind a fence, in a car, etc.) Find some way to get away from the dog.
- * If knocked to the ground, assume the fetal position. Make sure to cover your head and neck with your arms.
- * If the animal is a stray, contact the Police Department. The animal will need to be confined and quarantined.
- * If the animal is owned, take the owner's address, then contact the Police Department. A dog bite investigation will need to be started.
- * Seek medical treatment. Even the most minor of dog bites can become infected.

The Animal Control Services division of the Morgan Hill Police Department is here to help you with your animal control problems. We will impound stray/injured/aggressive dogs, investigate claims of animal cruelty, investigate animal bites, respond to public nuisance complaints, and help to promote responsible pet ownership through education. For more information about avoiding dog bites, or if you have any questions, please contact the Morgan Hill Police Department at 779-2101. 

• Article by David J. Ray, Animal Control Officer, 779-2101

HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING?

"PLAN" FROM PAGE 1

AS YOU may know, pollution prevention involves protecting the environment through reducing the amount of pollution that is generated in the home, in the garden, and on the road. During Pollution Prevention Week, you can take the first steps to preventing pollution before it is created!

Pollution Prevention Week is September 17-23. Have you thought about how you're going to celebrate?



Save energy by turning off lights in rooms that are not in use and use energy efficient appliances. Saving energy will help reduce air pollution and put some money back in your pocket! We all hate to unclog a dirty drain, but someone has to do it. Before you reach for that bottle of household drain cleaner, stop and think about what other alternatives you might have. In most cases, a plunger can do the job. Or try the old fashioned trick of pouring baking soda then vinegar down the drain. These household tips may not make unclogging the sink or shower fun, but they do prevent pollution.

IN THE HOME

IN THE GARDEN

Just because you have a "green thumb" doesn't mean you are a "green gardener." Turn your garden into a pollution free paradise by introducing "friendly" insects such as ladybugs and ground beetles to rid your garden of uninvited pests! Try controlling weeds by picking them by hand and then applying mulch from wood chips or grass clippings. Experiment with eliminating bothersome snails by filling a shallow pan with beer, sinking it to ground level, and then picking the snails out in the morning. Becoming a "green gardener" may be easier than you think!

ON THE ROAD

Did you know that when you give your vehicle that little "TLC" like getting it tuned-up or repairing a leak, you are preventing pollution? It's true! A car that isn't properly tuned produces 10-15 times more air pollution than a well-running vehicle. An automobile that leaks harmful fluids, such as oil, anti-freeze, and brake fluid, contributes to local water pollution.

So, do your part to prevent pollution, especially during Pollution Prevention Week, because together— we can prevent pollution! For more information about pollution prevention, contact 779-7247.

• Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

Design standards included in the updated Plan are targeted to improve the appearance of new commercial development by addressing such issues as landscaping and the siting of buildings near the street with parking to the side or rear.

TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

The primary circulation issue identified in the General Plan update was the effect of through traffic on City streets. The majority of peak-hour street traffic has origins and destinations outside Morgan Hill. New policies encourage the Valley Transportation Authority and CalTrans to widen Highway 101 to ten lanes to help ensure that through traffic will stay on Highway 101. A level of service is proposed for City streets that would ensure that only minimum traffic delays are experienced in the City at peak hours.

The General Plan update also includes park and recreation and bikeways policies that establish community priorities for parks, recreation, open space and trail facilities, and bicycle routes. New parks are proposed to be sited close to schools and in locations with minimal potential conflicts, including noise, with surrounding uses. Creek areas would be used for open space and recreation.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The General Plan recognizes that Morgan Hill is a special place with many unique and desirable attributes, including El Toro, local agricultural lands, and the Downtown area. These attributes are to be emphasized in a number of ways.

Residential densities are proposed to be reduced at the city fringes to establish a transition between urban development in the city and surrounding agricultural and rural areas. This supports the separation between Morgan Hill and San Jose to the north and San Martin to the south.

Gateways into the city are proposed to be distinguished with attractive entry signs, public art and specific design standards for both public and private projects. Standards are also included to promote high-quality design for private development throughout the City. These standards address such attributes as building design and setbacks, landscaping, parking and signs.

Community input was a high priority for the City Council throughout the process. The citizens committee charged with the task of updating the Plan represented the broad spectrum of community interests. This group solicited input through a visioning workshop, community attitudes survey, a draft Plan summary mailed to all City residents, a number of public workshops, and six public hearings.

Additional information regarding the updated General Plan may be obtained by contacting the Planning Division at 779-7248. Copies of the Plan may be viewed at the City's web site, Library and City Hall.

Article by David Bischoff, Director of Community Development, 779-7247

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION — DRIVE CAREFULLY



IT IS the first day of school and as you drive past Nordstrom school you see a car pull to the curb. Before the driver can get out of the car, the excited five year old in the back seat swings open the door and jumps into the street. Fortunately, the child stays in the bike lane and the traffic zooming by at 40 miles per hour narrowly misses the youngster before his parent can reach him and shield him from the traffic.

With September upon us, so is the start of school. The Police Department encourages all motorists to observe the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour in school zones. The Police Department will help protect our kids by actively enforcing vehicle code violations in school zone areas - especially as school begins.

The reason for a slower speed limit around schools is obvious; the safety of our children! What may not be as obvious are the factors involved in recognizing a hazard and the time it takes from initial recognition to the time when a vehicle is stopped.

In the above example, it takes an extra 81 feet to stop a car traveling at 40 mph versus 25 mph. If the car is traveling 50 mph, the difference is 197 feet. These calculations presume the standard reaction time of an alert driver.

When cell phones, cd players, and other distractions are added in, the result can be traumatic. The bottom line is simple. Please observe the speed limit around schools for our kids sake! ☹

Article by Officer David Swing, 779-2101



Want to start a recycling program at your school this year? We have lots of resources and helpful tips. Recycling projects are a great way to get an "A" and help our environment. Call 779-7247 for more information or email us at environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

Look in your City of Morgan Hill 2001 Recycling Calendar. There are a lot of great ideas for going back to school in an environmentally considerate way. This year, make it a goal to take a "trashless" lunch as often as possible!

MINUTES & AGENDAS —
JUST A CLICK AWAY

THE CITY of Morgan Hill posts City Council, Board, Commission and Committee meeting Agendas and Minutes on the City's Web Page. To find them, go to www.morgan-hill.ca.gov and click "Schedule of Minutes" on our home page. Agendas are typically posted on Mondays, the week of the meeting, while minutes are posted once approved by the appropriate body. Please contact the City Clerk's office at 779-7259 should you have any questions. ☹

• Article by Irma Torrez, City Clerk, 779-7259

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING GUIDE

<u>CITY</u>	REGULAR SESSION:	9/5 7PM LIVE
<u>COUNCIL</u>		9/6 NOON REPLAY
<u>MEETINGS</u>		9/8 8PM REPLAY
		9/9 NOON REPLAY
	REGULAR SESSION:	9/19 7PM LIVE
		9/20 NOON REPLAY
		9/22 8PM REPLAY
		9/23 NOON REPLAY
	JOINT REDEVELOPMENT	9/27 7PM LIVE
	AGENCY/ CITY	9/27 NOON REPLAY
	COUNCIL MEETING	9/29 8PM REPLAY
		9/30 NOON REPLAY
<u>PLANNING</u>	REGULAR SESSION:	9/11 7PM LIVE
<u>COMMISSION</u>		9/12 NOON REPLAY
<u>MEETINGS</u>		9/15 NOON REPLAY
		9/16 8PM REPLAY
	REGULAR SESSION:	9/25 7PM LIVE
		9/26 NOON REPLAY
		9/29 NOON REPLAY
		9/20 8PM REPLAY
SPARKY'S FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS		7:30AM, 10AM & 4:30PM DAILY
FIRE SAFETY INSIDE & OUT		6AM, 9:30AM & 5PM DAILY
FUGITIVE WATCH		7AM, 10:30AM & 6PM DAILY

C O M M U N I T Y E V E N T S

LABOR DAY • SEPTEMBER 3

City Offices Closed

RECYCLE DAYS • SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

SOUTH COUNTY GARAGE SALE • SEPTEMBER 8 & 9

Look for the ad in September 7's Morgan Hill Times for a complete listing of local garage sales.

COMPOST WORKSHOP • SEPTEMBER 15

Attendees of Morgan Hill's Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, September 15th, from 9-11 AM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.

PUBLIC MEETING - FIRE MASTER PLAN • SEPTEMBER 20

Meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers at 7PM - Learn about the City's fire protection future.

TASTE OF MORGAN HILL • SEPTEMBER 29 & 30

Join us in Downtown Morgan Hill for everything that makes our town wonderful and unique.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE Greg Sellers	778-2370
COUNCILMEMBER Larry Carr	779-9622
COUNCILMEMBER Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
COUNCILMEMBER Steve Tate	779-6992
CITY CLERK Irma Torrez	779-7259
CITY TREASURER Michael Roorda	778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER J. Edward Tewes
CITY ATTORNEY Helene L. Leichter
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Melissa Stevenson Dile
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Anthony Eulo
BUSINESS ASSISTANCE/HOUSING SERVICES DIRECTOR Garrett Toy
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR David Bischoff
COUNCIL SERVICES AND RECORDS MANAGER Irma Torrez
FINANCE DIRECTOR Jack Dilles
POLICE CHIEF Steve Schwab
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Jim Ashcraft
RECREATION MANAGER Julie Spier

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117

City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@cb.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

COMMUNITY EXCEEDS 50% RECYCLING

CONGRATULATIONS MORGAN HILL - we did it! Our waste diversion rate for 2000 was 53%. This calculation, which wasn't available from the State until last week, means that the City has complied with AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989. This is really a communitywide achievement. Without the participation of Morgan Hill's recycling residents and businesses, our efforts would be meaningless.

The City will now continue to expand recycling programs in the future with the hope of reaching 55%. Plastics 3-7 should be added to the recycling program next year and, potentially, food waste as well. In the meantime, if you need additional free recycling containers, you should contact us at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. Extra yard trimmings totes, totes for mixed paper, and additional blue bins are all available at no charge. 📧

THANKS FOR RECYCLING!



OCTOBER 6 IS CITY BEAUTIFICATION DAY

ARE YOU interested in civic improvement? Would you like to see a more beautiful Morgan Hill? Are you looking for a fun way to spend a Saturday morning? If you answered yes to any of the above, then City Beautification Day is for you. In short, City Beautification Day is an opportunity for Morgan Hill groups and individuals to engage in projects throughout the City that enhance the community's appearance.

Sample projects include flower planting, bridge painting, ballfield maintenance, and roadside cleanup. Groups are encouraged to take on whole aspects of the project. To learn more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247. 📧



I N S I D E

- GENERAL PLAN IS APPROVED
- WHAT TO DO IF A DOG ATTACKS
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR
- SCHOOL STARTS - DRIVING TIPS
- ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

CITY VISIONS
CITY OF MORGAN HILL
17555 PEAK AVENUE
MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

To: Morgan Hill Resident